GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3158
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2002
EXPORT OF WHEAT
PRABHUNATH SINGH;RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has exported wheat during the last year and 15million tonnes of wheat in current year so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the foreign exchange earned from the export of wheat during the above period;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to export wheat due to excessive stock of wheat lying in godowns of the country;

(e) if so, the details in this regard;

(f) whether the Union Government has initiated measures to boost export of wheat;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether Canada and USA have raised objections on the export of wheat by India sincewheat is being exported at a price less than its cost of production; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a)&(b): During 2000-01 and 2001-2002 (till 28.02.2002), 16.24 lakh MTs (approx.) and 31.76 lakh MTs of wheat has been respectively exported out of stocks offered from the Central Pool.

(c): US $ 461.51 million approximately have been earned from export of wheat by PSUs/Agencies during the above period.

(d)&(e): In view of excess stocks of wheat in the Central Pool, alongwith other Welfare/ income generation schemes, FCI has been permitted to offer wheat for export to PSUs/Agencies/ Private parties at a price fixed by the Government from time to time.

(f)&(g): The measures initiated by the Government to boost exports inter alia include the following:-

(i) wheat has been offered from the Central Pool for export purposes;

(ii) exporters have been allowed to lift stocks from the depots of FCI according to their choice;

(iii) an empowered Standing Committee on Exports has been set up to take expeditious decisions on matters relating to export of foodgrains regularly; and

(iv) in order to offer a stable price regime, the Government has decided to fix the offer price for export of wheat and rice from the Central Pool for a period of 3 months with an additional month given for lifting of stocks and to announce the prices 45 days in advance before the commencement of the concerned quarter.

(h) & (i): In 2001, Canada and USA raised certain questions bilaterally on export of wheat from the Central Pool, which have been suitably replied to by the Government.